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| First Named Inventor: | Daisuke IHARA, et | § | |
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Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO/SB/08A and/or 08B in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1) and (a)(2) listing all patents, publications, applications, and/or other information being submitted for consideration which may be material to the patentability of this application and/or for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. Also enclosed are copies of each of the foreign patents and/or non-patent literature documents cited therein but not copies of any U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent application publications in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). However, we will provide copies upon request.

The enclosed references were cited in an International Search Report (copy enclosed) dated March 22, 2005 from the Japanese Patent Office concerning counterpart International Application No. PCT/JP2004/015639.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any of the listed documents constitutes prior art, nor as an admission against interest in any manner.

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It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and/or 08B be considered and acknowledged by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, be made of record therein, and that the listed document(s) be cited in the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Daisuke IHARA, et al.

April 21, 2006
(Date)

Martin G. Belisario
Martin G. Belisario
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,886
Direct Dial: 215-965-1303
E-Mail: mbelisario@akingump.com

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street, Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone No.: 215-965-1200
Fax No.: 215-965-1210

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